The CASE

OF

The Linnen *Drapers* and other Dealers in Printed Callicoes and Linnens.

BY the Bill for Raiſing Money by way of Lottery, a Duty of 4 *d. per* Yard, is intended to be laid on all Printed and Stained Callicoes; but in regard 'tis manifeſt, That Coarſe Callicoes will not bear ſo High a Duty, there is a Proviſo in the Bill for making an Allowance or Deduction of *per* Yard, on all ſuch Callicoes as ſhall be Bought at the publick Sale for *per* Yard, or under.

Whereupon the *Drapers*, and other Dealers in thoſe Goods, humbly Hope, That the ſaid Proviſo ſhall be extended to all Callicoes, bought at, or under 21 *d. per* Yard; and that the Duty on ſuch Callicoes, ſhall be conſiderably leſſen'd, for the Reaſons following.

The Duties now paid on Callicoes, at the *Cuſtom-Houſe*, (being 52 *l.* 10 *s. per Cent.*) are the ſame *per* Yard, on the Coarſe Callicoes as on the Fine, excepting the laſt Duty of 15 *per Cent.* on all, according to the Groſs Price at the Candle; So that a Coarſe Callicoe, ſelling at, or under 21 *d. per* Yard, pays very near as much Cuſtom, as a Fine Callicoe, ſelling for 4 *s. per* Yard.

And the Drawback on the Exportation of Coarſe, being near equal with that on the Fine, and Amounting to 7 *d. per* Yard, or thereabouts; Almoſt all the Callicoes bought for about 16 *d.* or 18 *d. per* Yard, call'd *Gurrahs*, have, for the Advantage of the Drawback, been Exported White, ſince the ſaid laſt Duty of 15 *l. per Cent.* was laid. And the Bulk of Coarſe Callicoes, which have been Printed or Stained here ſince that Duty, conſiſts of thoſe Bought at 20 *d.* or 21 *d. per* Yard, called Coarſe *Longcloth* and *Sallampores*; And if any High Duty be now laid on the Printing or Staining thereof, even thoſe Callicoes will then alſo be Exported White, whereby not only the *Drapers*, Printers, and other Dealers, will in a great Meaſure be deprived of this Branch of their Trade, but the Revenue of the Cuſtoms will be very much Diminiſhed, and the Intended Fund fall greatly ſhort of the Money propoſed to be Raiſed by this Duty.

By Reaſon of the Apprehenſion of this intended Duty, Nineteen Parts in Twenty of the ſaid Coarſe *Longcloth*, *Sallampores*, and all others, which Sold at the *Eaſt-India* Companies laſt publick Sale, for 20 *d.* ½ *per* Yard, or under, were Bought by the *Dutch*, and others, for Exportation; whereas One Third Part at leaſt of all Callicoes, ſold at 20 *d.* or 21 *d. per* Yard, have always before been Bought by *Drapers* for Printing here; which ſeems to be an Undeniable Proof of what is before Alledged, as to the Conſequences of the Intended Duty on ſuch low Prized Goods.

If the *Drapers* and Dealers here, ceaſe to be Buyers of thoſe Callicoes at the Companies Sale, there will be no Buyers but the *Dutch*, and ſome other Foreigners, who will then ſoon beat down the Prize ſo Low, that the Company will diſcontinue to bring ſuch Callicoes; whereby the Cuſtoms will be ſtill much more Prejudiced, and the *Dutch* gain that Branch of Trade wholly to themſelves, and Supply not only their own People, but all other Foreigners (who now Buy here) with thoſe Goods dirctely from *India*.

As to the Duty propos'd by the BILL *to be laid on the Stock in Hand, it is Humbly Repreſented,*

THAT any Duty will be a very great Hardſhip, in regard the Stock in Hand conſiſts chiefly of ſuch Printed Callicoes and Linnen, as were either ſpoil'd in Printing, or are of ſuch Old Patterns as are now out of Faſhion and Unſaleable, and are really of much leſs Value than they were before the Printing thereof.

The manner propoſed for Aſcertaining and Collecting the Duty on Stocks in Hand, will be very Grievous and Burthenſome; for all Merchants, *Drapers*, Printers, Country-Shop-keepers, and other Dealers, are not only obliged to give an Account of their Stocks upon Oath in Writing, under Penalties; but their Houſes, Shops, and Ware-Houſes, are to be Entred and Searched by Officers, and every Piece and Remnant to be Sealed; which will be extreamly Troubleſome and Hazardous to the Trader, and Chargeable to the Government. And as to the Foreign Chequer'd and Strip'd Linnen intended to be Charged with this Duty, and Sealed, it is impoſſible for the moſt Skillful Dealers to Diſtinguiſh thoſe Goods from the like Sort made in *Great Britain*, which are not Subjected to any Duty, or directed to be Sealed, whereby Controverſies and Diſputes will continually ariſe between the Officers and Traders.

The Charge of Collecting this Duty on Stock in Hand, conſidering the Number of Officers, who muſt be Imploy'd to go into every Town and Village in *Great Britain*, where any Shop-keeper lives to Seal every Piece and Remnant, will probably Amount to more than all the Duty on ſuch Stock in Hand will produce.

And therefore 'tis Humbly hoped, That the Proviſo in the Bill for an Allowance on Coarſe Callicoes may be extended to ſuch as Sell at the publick Sales, at, or under 21 *d.* per *Yard, and that no Duty will be laid on the Stocks in Hand.*

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